

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of sterilizing a surface using a mobile, enclosed flamer comprising a hood, at least one burner, and skids for maintaining a height above said surface, said method comprising:

- (a) transporting the flamer to location;
- (b) setting the flamer on the skids; and
- (c) setting a flame to the burner such that the flame is contained within the hood.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the flamer is moved about the surface while ~~is~~ sterilizing.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the flamer additionally comprises wheels and is drawn by a vehicle.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a burner angle is adjustable during sterilization.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sterilizing a surface, said apparatus comprising:

- (a) a hood for containing a flame;
- (b) at least one burner situated under the hood, said burner oriented so a flame direction is substantially horizontal; and
- (c) a hitch for attaching said flamer to a tractor.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said hood comprises an external frame and a skin.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the hitch is a three-point hitch for attaching said flamer to a tractor.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the hitch is a quick coupler for attaching said flamer to a tractor.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, additionally comprising wheels for bearing a weight of the flamer, wherein the hitch is a tongue for attaching said flamer to a tractor.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising a fuel tank operably mounted on the hood, said fuel tank containing fuel for the burner.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising a fuel tank operably mounted on ~~the~~a tractor.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising a pivot for adjusting an angle of the at least one burner.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising ground engaging skids supporting at least some of a weight of the flamer when in operation and engaging the ground at all times during operation.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the skids are adjustable as to height.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising insulation over the skin on a side of the skin opposite the at least one burner.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 additionally comprising a heat shield disposed between the hood and the fuel tank.

17. (Original) A method of sterilizing poultry litter, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) holding poultry in confinement such that litter accumulates to form a

surface;

- (b) transporting a flamer to the litter surface;
- (c) setting the flamer on skids on the surface;
- (d) setting a flame to the burner such that the flame is contained within a hood; and
- (e) heating the poultry litter sufficiently to kill microbes and bacteria.

18. (New) An apparatus for sterilizing a surface, said apparatus comprising:

- (a) a hood for containing a flame;
- (b) a plurality of burners operatively attached to and situated under the hood for generating the flame; and
- (c) a hitch operatively attached to the hood for attaching the hood to a towing vehicle.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim **18** wherein the apparatus has a forward direction corresponding to the towing vehicle forward direction, the apparatus additionally comprising:

- (a) rake teeth disposed forward of the plurality of burners and under the hood; and
- (b) a barrier disposed between the rake teeth and the plurality of burners and under the hood.